

Remarks/Arguments:

Preliminary Matters

Claims 1, 3, 6 - 8, 22, 24, and 25 are pending in the present case, and claims 2, 4, 5, 9 - 21, 23, and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 22, 24, and 25 are allowed. Applicants further note with appreciation the indication that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Amendments

Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 1. Thus, claim 1 should be allowed.

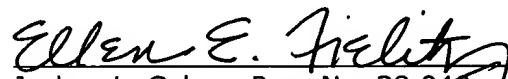
Claims 3 and 6 - 8 have been amended to depend upon allowed claim 22. Therefore, claims 3 and 6 - 8 should also be allowed at least as dependent upon an allowed base claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that each of pending claims 1, 3, 6 - 8, 22, 24, and 25 are in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Joshua L. Cohen, Reg. No. 38,040
Ellen E. Fielitz, Reg. No. 54,746
Attorneys for Applicants

JLC/EEF/dhm

Dated: April 5, 2004

Correspondence Address:
Unisys Corporation
Unisys Way, M/S E8-114
Blue Bell, PA 19424-0001

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